COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



Kurt E. Floren Agricultural Commissioner Director of Weights and Measures

Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures

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DATE: July 22, 2013

TO: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair, Second District

Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Third District Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren

Agricultural Commissioner

Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: PEACH FRUIT FLY ERADICATION EXTENDS INTO POMONA

Three mature specimens of Peach Fruit Fly (OFF), a major agricultural pest, have been detected in the Cities of Chino and Chino Hills in the County of San Bernardino. The number and close proximity of these specimens warrants action that will extend into the County of Los Angeles. Mated female Peach Fruit Flies deposit eggs into host fruits and vegetables and resulting maggots make the produce unfit for consumption. The species is known to target dozens of different commercially valuable fruit, vegetable and plant commodities, many of which are also popular with home gardeners, including peach, apple, apricot, avocado, grapefruit, lemon, orange, pomegranate, and tomato. To address this pest, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) personnel is conducting a PFF eradication operation over a 21.2 square-mile area, including 2.2 square-miles in Pomona (see attached map). The operation has already been underway in the County of San Bernardino. However, the third specimen, detected on July 11, was close enough to the City of Pomona to warrant expansion of the operation into Pomona and the County of Los Angeles.

A "male attractant" technique is being employed to combat this pest. Presenting no inconvenience to community members, the process consists of squirting a small spot of bait onto streetside tree trunks. Approximately 600 such "bait stations" are placed approximately eight to ten feet up on the trees in each square mile of the eradication area. Male flies feed on the bait and are killed by the small amount of Naled pesticide in the bait. No aerial bait treatments are planned. CDFA plans to start treatments in the expanded eradication area, which includes the portions of Pomona, tomorrow, July 23, and will repeat treatments at two-week intervals for at least six sessions.

We are informing the City Manager of Pomona and your Board offices in the treatment area to enable staff to answer questions from the public. I will continue to update you as details become available and warrant an update.

KEF:kp

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer Georgia Mattera, Manager, Public Safety Cluster Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer Board Deputies

PEACH FRUIT FLY CHINO, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY 2013

